

OVERVIEW OF ECUADOR BUILDING CODE REGULATION PROCESS

NIST Standards in Trade Workshop
on Concrete and Cement

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SUBJECT

A faint, black outline map of South America is positioned in the background, centered behind the text. The map shows the continent's shape, including the northern and southern extensions.

- Administration,
- Development,
- Implementation,
- Support Services, and
- Conclusions.

*...related with the Regulation process
for Building Codes and Standards in
ECUADOR*

Name of Organization

- The Building Code of Ecuador was developed by a group of researchers from many universities in ECUADOR: Escuela Politécnica Nacional, Universidad Católica de Quito, Universidad Católica de Guayaquil, Universidad de Cuenca, Escuela Politécnica del Ejército, etc. .
- The present Code was developed in the year 2000
- 25 people participated in the discussions
- There is no annual budget for the development of Codes in Ecuador
- This was accomplished with a donation from the Ecuadorian Foundation for Science and Technology (FUNDACYT)

Membership Composition

- Researchers from Universities, members of Chambers of Construction, Ecuadorian Society of Civil Engineers
- Do not apply
- About 25 people

Codes and Standards

- In Ecuador Codes are usually regarded as LAW, but Standards are just considered common practice

Contents of the Building Code

- The Ecuadorian Code of Construction is basically the translation of the UBC-77 Code except for the first chapter: Seismic Hazard and Seismic Zonation
 - We also acknowledge the ACI Code for concrete, the AISC Code for steel, there is no Code for wood
 - There is a first draft for a new Fire Code
 - There is not a specific Code for Mechanical, sanitation, fuel gas and plumbing, energy conservation

DEVELOPMENT of Building Codes and Standards

- Describe the process for the development of Building Codes and Standards in **ECUADOR**
 - Usually researchers from Universities
 - A committee is formed with member from universities
 - There is no vote, everything is approved by consensus
 - It took 20 years for the first updating of the Construction Code
 - We hope it would be a continuous process

Who participates in the development of building codes and standards

	YES	NO
Building Departments	X	
Public works/Ministries	X	
Fire Departments		X
Standard Developing Organizations		X
Professional Association	X	
Professors/Universities	X	
Manufacturers		X
Testing Labs	X	
Independent Engineers/architects/technicians	X	
Insurance Companies		X
Builders and Users	X	

MODIFICATION AND ADAPTATION of Building Codes and Standards

- Are the codes and standards modified and adapted to meet local conditions?
 - NO, but it should be taken into consideration local soil conditions for example for seismic regulations
 - The National Institute of Normalization (INEN) is in charge of enforcing the Code, but they do not do it.

ADOPTION of Building Codes and Standards

- Describe how the building codes and standards are adopted in **ECUADOR**

It was adopted by a national agency in charge of Standards (INEN)

ENFORCEMENT of Building Codes and Standards

- Describe the building construction enforcement process:
 - INEN has the authority but it does not use it.
 - There are no plan-checks performed
 - There are no inspections performed.

Codes from other Countries

- INEN allows the use of building codes and standards from other countries
- If multi-national companies submit structural and/or non-structural building designs based on the U.S. codes and standards, they are permitted to be used

Support Services

- Describe the support services offered to the public by the organization developing the building codes and standards:

There is only a publication of the Code in the form of a book

Support Services *(Continues)*

- Describe the procedure for accepting and/or approving building materials from other countries for use in **ECUADOR:**

We have to ask for a permit from INEN

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